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Message Text

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22
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 /085 W
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R 110345Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2103
INFO 8#$5/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 51
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY DOHA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SPOP EAID MU
SUBJECT: OMAN ASSISTANCE TO UNFPA AND OTHER POPULATION PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 113178

1. UNFPA MISSION VISITED OMAN IN MID-APRIL, HEADED BY DIRECTOR RAFAEL SALAS AND ACCOMPANIED BY QATAR MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS. MISSION MET WITH MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS QAIS ZAWAWI, AND MINISTERS OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS. QATAR SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER ALSBG MET IKIVATELY WITH SULTAN QABOOS. MISSION ACHIEVED ITS GOAL AND OBTAINED OMANI COMMITMENT TO FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.
2. PARTLY BECAUSE OF ARAB-AREA ORIENTATIN OF DELEGATION, OMANGOV HAS INDICATED IT WILL GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO UNFPA THIS YEAR. OMAN WILL CONTRIBUTE ABOUT $200,000 OVER TWO-YEAR PERIOD FOR PROGRAM SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR ARAB COUNTRIES. OMANIS ARE ALSO READY TO MAKE NOMINAL CONTRIBUTION OF $5-10,000 A YEAR TO REGULAR UNFPA PROGRAMS.

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3. A MAIN REASON FOR OMANI SUPPORT OF UNFPA WAS EMPHASIS BY

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MISSION ON MATERNAL AND CHILD CARE PROJECTS, DEMOGRAPHIC STUDIES AND CENSUS-TAKING. UNFPA HOPES TO START CENSUS AND MOTHER/ CHILD CARE PROGRAMS IN OMAN NEXT YEAR. SINCE OMAN IS UNDER-POPULATED COUNTRY WITH NOTICEABLE MIGRATION FROM RURAL AREAS TO THE COAST, UNFPA GROUP PUT LITTLE EMPHASIS ON POPULATION CONTROL. OMAN SOCIAL YNFFAIRS MINISTER KHDZFAN BIN NASSER, WHO SEEMED TO SHOW MORE INTEREST IN POPULATION MATTERS THAN OTHER OMANGOV OFFICIALS, TOLD UN MISSION THAT OMAN MIGHT STEP UP ITS SUPPORT FOR WORLDWIDE UNFPA PROGRAMS IN FUTURE.

4. UNDP RESREP ALAIN MORVAN HAS BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH OMANGOV OFFICIALS ON UNFPA PROGRAMS AND HAS PLAYED HELPFUL ROLE IN OBTAINING OMANGOV SUPPORT. WE DO NOT BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT SPECIAL APPROACH TO OMANIS BY EMBASSY OFFICERS WOULD BE NEEDED.
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